[11th November 1957

Working Journalists' wages

* 133 Q.—Sri N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any steps to implement the recommendations of the Wage Board in respect of the working Journalists in this State?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that the decisions of the Wage Board are implemented :—

(i) All the newspaper establishments in the State (except those covered by the stay order of the Supreme Court) have been informed that they should implement the decisions of the Wage Board if they have not already done so.

(ii) The Government have also sanctioned the appointment of one Inspector of Newspaper Establishments with necessary staff for inspecting the establishments and for verifying that the decisions of the Wage Board are implemented in full.

(iii) The Presiding Officers of the Labour Courts, Madras, Coimbatore and Madurai have been notified under section 17 of the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, as authorities in respect of their respective jurisdiction to determine the amount due to the newspaper employees and for issuing a certificate for that amount to the Collector of the district concerned to enable the Collector to proceed to recover that amount in the same manner as arrears of land revenue.

(iv) I also convened a conference of the representatives of the newspaper establishments on the 12th and 19th September 1957 and urged upon them to implement the decisions of the Wage Board in respect of current dues.

Working Journalists' wages

* 134 Q.—Sri K. SATTANATHA KARAYALAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a meeting of the representatives of newspaper establishments was convened by the Hon. Minister recently to discuss the question of implementation of the decisions of the Journalists' Wage Board;

(*b*) if so, the views represented by the Government;

(*c*) whether any decision was arrived at; and

(*d*) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Sri R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir. The Minister held discussions on 12th and 19th September 1957.

(*b*) The Minister urged upon the managements to implement the decisions of the Wage Board for Working Journalists atleast in respect of current dues and suggested that an amicable settlement may be arrived at.

(*c*) No, Sir.

(*d*) The managements were not agreeable to the suggestion made by the Minister.